

# San Antonio Missions

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

San Antonio Missions  
National Historical Park



## Seventh Grade On-Site Curriculum

Mission San Jose - The Summit of the Empire

**Objective:** Through visiting Mission San Jose students will explore three “**P**”s: People, Process, and Place. They will hear about the various groups that either worked together or fought against the establishment of Spanish settlements in Texas. They will examine why the San Antonio River Valley was selected by the early explorers and they will study the process used by Spain to claim land and convert natives.

**Goal:** Students will understand the purpose of Spanish Colonial Missions. They will be able to identify the major cultural groups that contributed to the establishment and day to day operation of the missions in the San Antonio River Valley. Students will also recognize the role that these missions had in forming the city and the culture that exists today.

**Length: 75 minutes on site.**

**Overview:** The missions along the San Antonio River served the King of Spain as both outposts and training centers. They helped claim land for the crown by converting the native people in the area to Spanish citizens. Trades, culture and even food were molded in the Spanish/European tradition. Some native ideas remained and were even included on the dinner table and at the altar.

After a short talk about safety and preservation students will be divided into three groups. Each group will spend approximately twenty minutes cycling through three stations. Five minutes is allotted between cycles to move from one point to the next.

Programs are offered Tuesday-Thursday at 9:30, 10:45 and 1:00. It is critical that you arrive on time. Delays of greater than ten minutes may forfeit your guided program.

Overall group size is limited to 150 students per session. Multiple sessions can be booked for larger groups.

## Vocabulary

Mission  
Colonization  
Frontier  
Vaquero  
Rancho  
Empire  
Band  
Hunter/Gatherer

## Inquiry

Why did Spain want to claim the area we know as Texas?

What Indians lived in the river valley? Why did some join the missions and others did not?

What was the purpose of a mission?

In what ways did the mission process succeed?

## TEKS

### Social Studies

§113.23

(2)History

b,f

(10)Geography

a,b

(11)Geography

a,b,d

(19)Culture

c